

ALL SAINTS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America 4129 W. Newport Ave., Chicago, IL 60641 773-231-6177 www.allsaintsorthodox.org

Sunday, February 4, 2024

Saturday Vespers, 7pm • Sunday Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:30am Sunday of Zacchaeus • After-feast of the Presentation



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Troparion for the Resurrection (Tone 2): When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal one, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: 'O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee!'

Troparion for the Presentation (Tone 1): Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace, for from thee arose the Sun of justice, Christ our God, lighting those who are in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous old man, carrying in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, who granteth us resurrection.

Kontakion for the Presentation (Tone 1): Thou, O Christ God, who by Thy birth didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and as is meet, didst bless Simeon's arms, and didst also come to save us: Preserve Thy fold in wars, and confirm them whom Thou dost love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

Troparion of All Saints (Tone 4): Adorned in the blood of Thy martyrs, throughout all the world as in purple and fine linen, Thy Church through them doth cry unto Thee, O Christ God: Send down Thy compassion upon Thy people! Grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy to our souls.

THE EPISTLE

For the Thirty-second Sunday after Pentecost

The Lord is my strength and my song. With chastisement hath the Lord chastened me. The reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy (4:9-15)

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Until I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties; devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.

THE GOSPEL

For the Fifteenth Sunday of Luke

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (19:1-10)

At that time, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. And he sought to see Who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Jesus, for He was to pass that way.

And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully.

But when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner!"

Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold."

Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

On Frequent Holy Communion, Part Two

His Eminence Metropolitan Saba (Isper)

Today there is widespread misconception among believers between "being worthy" and "being ready" to receive Holy Communion. Whoever refrains from partaking of the chalice of Holy Communion due to *unworthiness* is confusing this with *unreadiness*. No human being is worthy of God dwelling in Him and uniting with Him. Who among us acquires perfect purity and who is among us is without sin? No human being is worthy of this great blessing. God dwells among us and in us because of His overwhelming mercy, His utmost love, and His condescension that is incomprehensible to the human mind. Therefore, there will never come a time when we will be worthy of the Eucharist. Rather, when we think that we have become worthy, we have fallen into the greatest sin, that is, into pride, the root of all evil.

Yet, we must prepare ourselves to receive the Lord. Just as a person prepares to welcome an important guest into his home by cleaning and arranging it, and then he dresses in clean and appropriate clothes, so the believer prepares to receive the Lord in the "house" of his or her soul. So, on the one hand, only a spirit of contrition and the conviction that I am a sinner and not worthy at all, relying on God's vast mercy, can enable me to approach the chalice. On the other hand, I must seek to respond to God's abundant mercy by committing myself to the appropriate preparation for Holy Communion that the Church has appointed in general, and the prayer rule which my spiritual father gives me personally, lest I become complacent and take the Lord's mercy for granted, and then forget the importance of my role in my salvation. In short, we must realize that we are always unworthy, and yet must strive to partake worthily, through the necessary preparation.

Based on the teachings of the Gospel, the Church has established several means to help us prepare for Communion: the sacrament of Confession, the pre-Communion prayers, reconciliation with others, and correcting our bad habits, in addition to abstaining from food and drink from midnight before the Divine Liturgy and arriving on time to participate in the Divine Liturgy. Adherence to these instructions is essential and important in order to partake of the Holy Body and Blood of the Lord in a worthy manner, that is, with proper preparation. The Apostle Paul says: "Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord" (1 Cor. 11:27). So, what should we do about this? The Apostle answers: "Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup" (1 Cor. 11:28).

We should not understand the relationship between the sacraments of Confession and the Eucharist in a mechanical or legalistic manner, but rather as something vitally and essentially connected. Some may argue that one should not partake of the Eucharist until after confession, but others disagree. To confess every time before receiving Communion is difficult to do, even in monasteries. However, it is absolutely unacceptable to receive Holy Communion constantly and not confess at all. The best practice is to both confess and receive Holy Communion according to the guidance of one's spiritual father.

Let us not forget to examine our conscience thoroughly on the eve of the Divine Liturgy. This puts us on the right track, protects us from falling into a routine of approaching the chalice unprepared, and keeps the flame of longing for Christ burning within us. It is also a good practice to read the pre-Communion Canon and Prayers the night before the Divine Liturgy.

Proper preparation allows us to approach the divine mystery with contrition of heart and a conviction of our unworthiness, because we are sinners, and we must rely entirely on the mercy of the Lord, saying: "O Lord Master, I am not worthy that thou should enter under the roof of the house of my soul; but as thou desirest, O Lover of mankind, to dwell in me, I make bold to draw near."

Let us draw near in the fear of God which keeps us in constant and fervent communion with Him. We should call to mind the pre-Communion admonition: "If thou desirest, O man, to eat the Body of the Master, approach in fear, lest thou be scorched, for it is fire. And, before drinking the divine Blood unto communion, first reconcile thyself to them that have wronged thee. Then dare to eat the mystical food."

Announcements and Upcoming Events

For a full calendar of events and services at All Saints, see our website www.allsaintsorthodox.org

Today: Orthros & Divine Liturgy, beginning 8:30am, followed by coffee hour (<u>L-P</u>) and church school.

Tuesday, Feb. 6: Morning prayers, 9am

Wednesday, Feb. 7:

- Morning prayers, 9am
- Homeschool classes, 10am-4pm
- Vespers for the Holy Prophet Zechariah, 7pm

Thursday, Feb. 8: Morning prayers, 9am

Friday, Feb. 9: Morning prayers, 9am

Saturday, Feb. 10:

- Bridal shower for Shay McMullan, 4:30pm
- Great Vespers, 7pm

Next Sunday, February 11: Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:30am, followed by coffee hour $(\underline{R-Z})$ and church school

Other upcoming events & services:

Sunday, Feb. 25: Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican, the first pre-Lenten Sunday

Saturday, March 2: Soul Saturday Divine Liturgy & Memorial Prayers, 10am

Saturday, March 9: Wedding of Hanna Saba & Shay McMullan, 2pm at Holy Resurrection Serbian Cathedral.

March 17-23: First week of Great Lent (services every evening at 7pm)

Saturday, March 23: Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers, 6pm at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in Des Plaines. *Guest preacher will be Bishop John Abdalah.* Note this service is normally on a Sunday evening, but it was moved to Saturday this year so as not to conflict with the feast of the Annunciation.

HOUSE BLESSINGS: It is customary for every Orthodox household to be blessed by a priest between January 6 and the beginning of Great Lent each year. It is not necessary to feed or pay the priest, and you are certainly not required to have his entire family over. Please see Fr. Andrew to set up an appointment. If you would rather wait until after Pascha, that will also be fine.

CROSS ROAD INSTITUTE is currently accepting applications from high school juniors and seniors for their summer programs. This is an immersive 10-day retreat experience in the Orthodox faith. For more information, please visit www.crossroadinstitute.org.

CAMP ST. GEORGE meets for one week in July (over 4th of July) near Strawberry Point, IA and is for campers ages 9-17. Usually, we get 75-85 campers. Camp St. George did not meet in 2020 or 2021 because of Covid, met in 2022, but did not meet in 2023 because we did not have enough staff.

Specific requests: we need 20 counselors (10 male and 10 female), and one or two more people to take on administrative roles, i.e., programming. The staffing needs should be

met before we start accepting campers (in six weeks). The camp needs volunteers (18 and older) who are solid in the Orthodox Faith to consider volunteering their time to fill these roles. Applications will be available in January at **csgiowa.org**. Contact Fr. Fred Shaheen, Camp Director, with the names of any potential staff at <u>shaheenf@hotmail.com</u>.

Date	Reader	Prosphora	Greeter	Coffee	Food
Sun., Feb. 4	Joseph L	Domitille	Joanne T	Domitille	L-P
Sun, Feb. 11	Doug J	Cristina P	Azizeh	Lydia A	R-Z
Sun., Feb. 18	Richard C	Sarah S	James B	Zach C	A-F
Sun., Feb. 25	Michelle C	Sandy A	Domitille	Alina S	G-K
<u>Sat. March 2</u> Soul Saturday	Sdn. Joseph	Dn Walid	JoAnne T	Domitille	L-P

Volunteer Schedule

For Sunday coffee hour, the church has been divided into four parts alphabetically (A-F, G-K, L-P, and R-Z). On your assigned week, please bring something simple to share with everyone for coffee hour.

If you have children, please monitor them as they go through the coffee hour line, and help them clean up after themselves. Weekly clean-up will be the responsibility of those providing coffee hour. And of course, things go faster when we all pitch in and help!



DAILY BIBLE READINGS FEBRUARY 4-10, 2023

ADAPTED FROM THE LECTIONARY OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ARCHDIOCESE

This week's daily readings continue our sequential reading of Scripture (lectio continua), with readings from the Major Prophets, St Paul's Epistles, and the Gospel of St. Luke.

Sunday, Feb. 4: Sunday of Zacchaeus Mark 16:1-8 / 1 Timothy 4:9-15 / Luke 19:1-10

Monday, Feb. 5: Holy Martyr Agatha Jeremiah 2 / James 3:1-12 / Luke 6:43-49

Tuesday, Feb. 6: Photius the Great, Patriarch of Constantinople Jeremiah 3 / James 3:13-18 / Luke 7:1-10

> Wednesday, Feb. 7: St. Richard, King of Wessex Jeremiah 4 / James 4:1-10 / Luke 7:11-16

Thursday, Feb. 8: Holy Prophet Zachariah Jeremiah 5 / James 4:11-17 / Luke 7:17-35

Friday, Feb. 9: Leave-taking of the Presentation Jeremiah 6 / James 5:1-9 / Luke 7:36-50

Saturday, Feb. 10: Hieromartyr Haralambos James 5:10-20 / Luke 8:1-3

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